



UNIVERSITY OF
South Carolina
PALMETTO COLLEGE
OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

January 5, 2022

Dear Palmetto College family,

Happy New Year! Welcome back to your respective Palmetto College Campuses. I hope that you had an opportunity to enjoy some well-deserved downtime following a busy fall semester. We were successful in meeting our Palmetto College mission to our students and communities last semester, and I know that we will continue to do so this spring.

As the new semester starts, I would like to reassure you that Palmetto College's top priority is and always continues to be the health, safety, and well-being of our faculty, staff, and students. While the institutional response to the ongoing pandemic remains fluid, we will continue to keep you updated regarding any important developments.

At the beginning of this academic year, I sought to remind us all of [The Carolinian Creed](#) to which all members of the University of South Carolina community subscribe. I would like to remind you that within the creed, we vow to “demonstrate concern for others, their feelings, and their need for the conditions which support their work and development.” In exhibiting concern for others and those conditions, we would hope that you remain willing to do what you can to provide a level of protection for all amid rising COVID-19 omicron variant infection rates. That concern and your efforts are greatly appreciated.

If you have not already done so, [please consider pursuing full vaccination](#) (including a booster, if eligible) against COVID-19 as a means of protecting yourselves, your loved ones, your campuses, and your communities. In addition, flu vaccines are also currently available. This is quite imperative as many of our Palmetto College campus communities are [situated in re-emerging COVID-19 hot spots](#).

In regard to [Spring 2022 COVID-19 guidance](#), please note that ALL listed guidelines for the Columbia campus also apply to employees and students in Palmetto College Columbia and the Palmetto Pathway Program. While our Palmetto College campuses are nonresidential, many of the [return-to-campus guidelines](#) still apply to us:

- All students residing off-campus, faculty, and staff are encouraged to provide one of the following by Monday, Jan. 10:
 - A negative COVID-19 PCR or antigen test collected between Jan. 3 and Jan. 10.
 - Proof of prior positive COVID-19 infection within the last 90 days.
 - A completed COVID-19 vaccination record uploaded into the [MyHealthSpace portal](#). The portal is compliant with federal health privacy law and your records will not be shared.
- Opportunities for vaccination and testing are available at specified times and locations on your respective Palmetto College campuses. Please consult with your local campus leadership for additional details.
- Because face coverings have been proven effective in stemming the spread of COVID-19, face coverings are required in the following spaces:
 - Inside all campus buildings, unless you are in your own residence hall room or private office or you are eating inside campus dining facilities.
 - Medical facilities and COVID-19 testing facilities.
 - Public transportation: Required on shuttles, buses and other forms of university transportation.
 - Employees who have health conditions that make wearing a face covering difficult are encouraged to talk with their supervisors about alternative options.
- All Columbia-based Palmetto College faculty and staff reporting to campus for work must participate in monthly COVID-19 testing regardless of vaccination status. Beginning on Jan. 18, monthly required testing will resume. As in the fall, testing will continue in four-week cycles with each group testing for one week.

Up-to-date COVID-19 guidelines may always be found on the [UofSC coronavirus website](#). For regular COVID-19 testing for our Palmetto College Campuses, please continue to consult with you respective regional Palmetto College campus. The [Palmetto College Campuses COVID dashboard](#) will begin to be updated for the new semester at the end of next week.

Thank you to those of you who have already taken steps to protect yourselves and others by receiving vaccinations and boosters, wearing face coverings indoors where appropriate, and maintaining social distancing when the situation calls for it. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me, Associate Provost John Catalano, Faculty Senate Chair Ernest Jenkins, or your respective Campus Dean. Happy New Year! The best is yet to come!

Looking forward,

Susan